

# CHANGES IN NOMENCLATURE AND REASSIGNMENT OF PLATYDESSUS PERFORATUS (COLEOPTERA: DYTISCIDAE)

By PAUL J. SPANGLER<sup>1,2</sup>

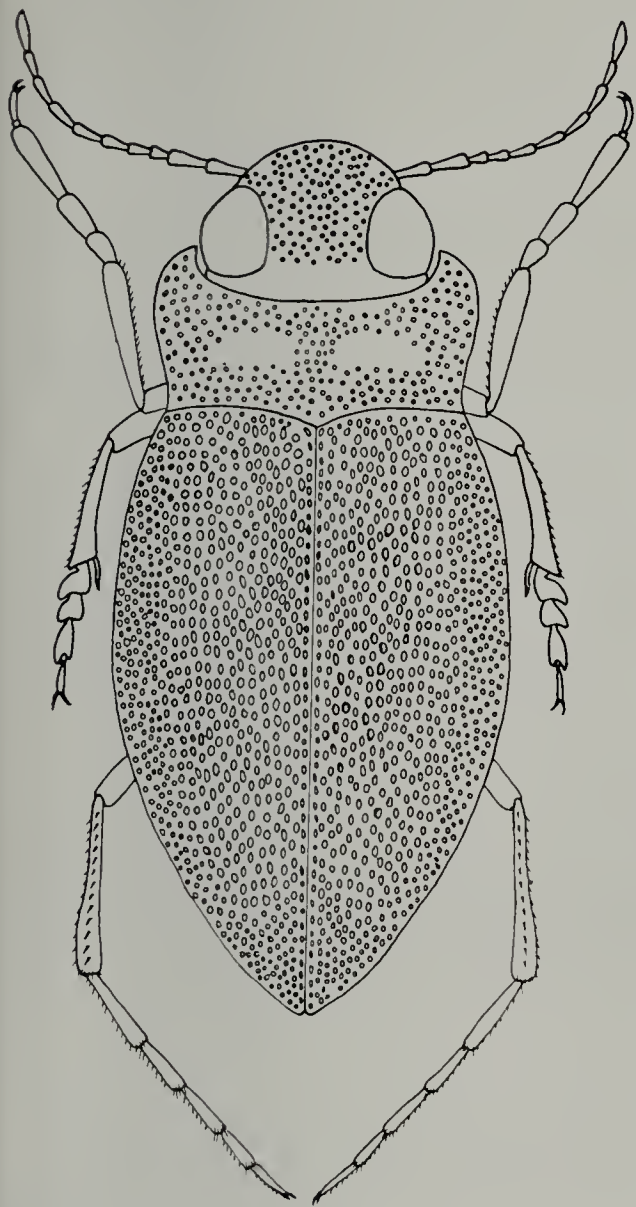


FIG. 1

*Macrovatellus perforatus* (Guignot).

Wehncke and found it is congeneric with them. Consequently, the following changes are necessary.

## *Macrovatellus* Sharp

*Macrovatellus* Sharp, 1882, Sci. Trans. Roy. Dublin Soc. 2(2):282. Type, by subsequent designation, *Macrovatellus marginalis* Sharp (F. Guignot, 1946, Rev. Français Ent. 13(3):112).

*Platydessus* Guignot, 1955, Bull. Inst. Roy. Sci. nat. Belgique 31(27):3. Type, by monotypy, *Platydessus perforatus* Guignot (NEW SYNONYMY).

While trying to identify and describe some South American bidessine beetles, it was necessary to examine the type of the monotypic genus *Platydessus* described and assigned to the tribe Bidessini by Guignot (1955). Through the kindness of Mr. G. Frey, Museum G. Frey, Munich, Germany, I was able to borrow the female type of *Platydessus perforatus* Guignot for study.

As I suspected when I read that the type specimen was 5 mm. long (unusually large for a bidessine), the type does not belong to the tribe Bidessini. I have examined the meta-thoracic episterna of *perforatus* and found that they are excluded from the middle coxal cavities by the mesosternal epimera; therefore, the species is excluded from the Bidessini. Also, the prosternal process is short and does not attain the metasternum so the species belongs to the Vatellini. The mesosternum is mostly visible too, as is characteristic of the genus *Macrovatellus* described by Sharp (1882). I have compared *perforatus* with *Macrovatellus mexicanus* Sharp and *M. haagi*

<sup>1</sup> Department of Entomology, United States National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

<sup>2</sup> This study was made possible in part by grant GB-1697 from the National Science Foundation.

*Macrovatellus perforatus* (Guignot) NEW COMBINATION

*Platydessus perforatus* Guignot, 1955, Bull. Inst. Roy. Sci. nat. Belgique 31(27):4. Type female: "Bolivia"; in the G. Frey Museum, Munich, Germany.

Because Guignot's *perforatus* has never been illustrated, a dorsal view (fig. 1) of his type specimen is included. The distinctive habitus of species belonging to the genus *Macrovatellus* is characteristic for most of the *Vatellini*.

## LITERATURE CITED

GUIGNOT, F.

1955. Description de Nouveaux Dytiscidae Principalement de L'Amerique du Sud. Bull. Inst. Roy. Sci. nat. Belgique 31(27):1-12.

SHARP, D.

1882. On Aquatic Carnivorous Coleoptera or Dytiscidae. Sci. Trans. Roy. Dublin Soc. 2(2):179-1003.



## NOTICE

In the March issue of the Bulletin, Vol. 20, No. 1, on page 11, Spangler's new species of *Derovatellus* is spelled *ibarri*. It should have been spelled *ibarra*. The name is spelled correctly in all other parts of the article.